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Mark Twain Tells How He Wrestled With Roosevelt Spelling

New York, Sept. 19.—Mark Twain was in one of his merriest moods to night when he addressed the banquet of the Associated Press in the Hotel Waldorf Astoria on the wisdom of the simplified form of spelling.

Like a father chiding his erring son the humorist urged the Associated Press to reform its spelling and not make the English language "tough" when it is "tuff" enough already.

Here is what he said:

"I am here to make an appeal to the nations in behalf of the simplified spelling. You speak with a million voices; no one can reach so many races, so many hearts and intellects as you, except Rudyard Kipling, and he cannot do it without your help.

"So I beg you, I beseech you — I implore you to spell them in our simplified forms. Do this daily, constantly, persistently, for three months — only three months — it is all I ask. The infallible result? Victory. Victory all down the line. For by that time all eyes here and above and below will have become adjusted to the change, and in love with it, and the present clumsy and ragged forms will be grotesque to the eye and revolting to the soul.

"Then we shall be rid of 'phthisis' and 'pneumonia' and 'pneumonia' and 'pneumonia' and all those other insane words which the man addicted to the simple Christian life can try to spell and not lose some of the bloom of his piety in the demoralizing attempt. Do not doubt it. We are chameleons, and our partialities and prejudices change places with an easy and blessed facility and we are soon wonted to change and be happy in it. We do not regret our old yellow fangs and snags and tusks after we have worn nice fresh uniform store teeth a while.

Got Object Lesson

In 1883, when the simplified spelling movement first tried to make a noise I was indifferent to it; more — I even irreverently scoffed at it. What I needed was an object lesson, you see; it is the only way to teach some persons. Very well, I got it.

"At that time I was scrambling along, earning the family's bread on magazine work at seven cents a word, compound words at single rates, just as it is in the dark present. I was the property of a magazine — a seven-cent slave under a boiler-iron contract.

"One day there came a note from the editor requiring me to write ten pages on this revolting text: 'Considerations concerning the alleged subterranean holophotal extemporaneousness of the conchylaceous superimposition of the orthorhynchus, as foreshadowed by the unintelligibility of its plesiosaurian anisodactylous as-

pects.

"Ten pages of that! Each and every word a seventeen-jointed ventriloqued railroad train. Seven cents a word! I saw starvation staring the family in the face. I went to the editor and took a stenographer along, so as to have the interview down in black and white, for no magazine editor can evade remember any part of a business talk except the part that's got graft in it for him and the magazine.

"I said, 'Read that text, Jackson, and let it go on the record; read it out loud. Read it out.' He read it. 'Considerations concerning the alleged subterranean holophotal extemporaneousness of the conchylaceous superimposition of the orthorhynchus, as foreshadowed by the unintelligibility of its plesiosaurian anisodactylous aspects.'

"I said, 'You want ten pages of those rumbling, great, long summer thunderpeals and you expect to get them at 7 cents a word.'

"He said, 'A word's a word, and 7 cents is the contract; what are you going to do about it?'

"I said, 'Jackson, this is cold blooded oppression. What's an average English word?'

"He said, 'Six letters.'

"I said, 'Nothing like the kind; that's French and includes the spaces between the words; an average English word is four letters and a half. By Jove, honest labor I have dug all the hard words out of my vocabulary and shaved it down till the average is three letters and a half. I can put 1200 words on your page, and there's not another man alive that can come within 200 of it.'

"My page is worth \$84 to me. It takes exactly as long to fill your magazine page with long words as it does with short ones — four hours. Now, then, look at the criminal injustice of this requirement of yours. I am careful. Examine your obscene text — please count the words.'

"He counted and said it was twenty-four. I asked him to count the letters. He made it 203.

"I said, 'Now I hope you will see the whole size of your crime. With my vocabulary I would make sixty words out of those 203 letters, and get \$4.20 for it; whereas, for your lechman twenty-four I would get only \$1.68. I do not wish to work upon this scandalous job by the piece! I want to be hired by the year.'

"He coldly refused. Then I spoke right out and called him an anisodactylous plesiosaurian conchylaceous orthorhynchus, and rotten to the heart with holophotal subterranean extemporaneousness — God forgive me for that wanton crime; he only lived two hours.

LOW ANSWERS IN BEEF TRUST CASE

John S. Low filed an answer Friday afternoon in the suit of the United States vs. the "Beef Trust," in which he claims that he is totally innocent of any wrong doing and that he has wrongfully been brought into the case. While the answer is couched in some what legal verbiage, it was written by Mr. Low, acting as his own attorney and to a certain degree seems to be rather frivolous and hardly the sort of a document which is generally handed in to a Federal Court. It refers to U. S. District Attorney Breckons again and again as "Your Orator," always in quotation marks and from the manner

JEALOUS LOVER'S FATE AT HANAPEPE

Lihue, Kauai, Oct. 8.—The fame of the fair damsel in Hanapepe, while fully appreciated in their own locality, has up to the present not reached the outside world to the extent that their beauty deserves, but an occurrence that took place last Saturday is apt to make a change for the better. A number of adoring young men went up to serenade a belle of that neighborhood, and tried to express their passion for her through the medium of soft madrigals and tinkling guitars. One after the other the adoring singers floated their burning love on the zephyrs of the night, to the edification of neighbors and the gratification of the drowsy beauty. Thoroughly awakened at last by a burst of specially ingratiating melody, the object of the serenade opened the shutters to give the singers a token that she appreciated, even if she did not reciprocate their feelings. There she stood, flooded in the silvery light of the moon, revealed in all her peerlessness to the gazing admirers.

She was also revealed to another. He was one of the many who had succumbed to the charms of the fair one, and by the sight of so many rivals to the favors of his adored was seized by the demon of jealousy.

Sneaking up behind the unsuspect-

in which it is done it looks as if it were intended as a legal joke, if such a thing were possible.

Mr. Low states that he is totally ignorant of the case except as he has seen it in the complaint, that he is not a stockholder in the Metropolitan Meat company and that he has not attempted in any way to sell meat except in open competition. He also denies the fact that Honolulu is the principal market of the Territory. In summing the answer up he says that he is totally innocent of all violations of the United States law and prays to be dismissed from the suit with such reasonable costs as may have accrued.

Lord Walsingham is well known as a famous shot. He holds the record for the largest individual bag of grouse in a single day—421 brace to his own gun, or, rather, to his guns. But it is as an entomologist he will be best known to future generations. His collection of moths and butterflies is the finest in the world. It is currently reported that at his death it will be bequeathed to the nation.

Bills: I understand that old miser left quite a fortune. Wills: That's because he couldn't take it with him.

Politics And Leprosy As Practised In Countries Of South America

Washington, Sept. 13.—After displaying rare heroism by the devotion of a life time to a study of leprosy, Eugene H. Plummer, American Consul at Maracaibo, Venezuela, has decided that the dread malady is not contagious, but is hereditary to a degree not reached in any other disease. He has made an exhaustive report to the State Department telling of his personal attendance upon lepers afflicted in the most revolting form. His report indicates that leprosy is curable, but that there is little hope in Venezuela or other Latin-American leper colonies where nutritious foods and expensive drugs rarely are provided.

Dr. Plummer was appointed to Maracaibo in 1878, where, in jointure with his duties as consul, he has constantly observed leper cases and their treatment and where he experimented in no small way. In this he has had the benefit of correspondence with the most advanced scientists of the United States and Europe, and it was through his efforts that the "Tut Tut" plant, used in treating the disease, is now planted in all countries which have leper stations.

At the request of these scientists Dr. Plummer took a large number of photographs of lepers, personally removing the bandages of the afflicted, in order that the best results might be obtained. It was prophesied that he would contract the disease, but this did not happen. He was allowed to visit secretly many lepers in Maracaibo concealed by their families to avoid their being sent in perpetual banishment to the island. Using a secret medicine which he obtained through Dr. S. C. Boothwell, now marshal of the Supreme Court of Porto Rico, he experimented with it on these private cases. The medicine was expensive, but the Board of Directors of the leper colony allowed him a small sum to prepare the medicine and ten lepers were given into his special charge.

These cases embraced both classes of the disease—the dry class, where extremities become deadened so that fingers and toes may be broken off without pain to the patients, and the other class, known as wet or soft leprosy, where every part falls away leaving at last nothing but a trunk of a human being. The money given Dr. Plummer lasted about two months, after which he carried the cases eight months at his own expense. His reports point out that the treatment produced much good results, but that the lack of proper food made absolute cure impossible.

Dr. Plummer says in his report that as he was successful and full of hope for continued good results, he concluded he would rather drop the society of his friends of the foreign colony than to abandon the lepers. Though he observed minute care to avoid any danger

by saying: "What leprosy is we do not yet know, but our people at home should be enlightened through the press that it is cruel to shun and abandon a poor, suffering human creature because he is a 'Lazarus.' Smallpox is much more contagious. I will cheerfully attend to any class of lepers, but smallpox makes me shudder. I would, I allowed the selection, rather storm a battery than go to examine a smallpox patient."

The report gives statistics showing the alarming number of lepers in the republics of Colombia and Venezuela.

ITEMS ABOUT SHIPS AND THE SEA

The shell and boilers of the new Cunarder being built at Wallsend, Eng., are said to be constructed of the largest steel plates in the world. They are Silcock steel, weighing ten tons each. The boilers alone will weigh over 1000 tons.

The schooner Carmichael, which achieved a notorious reputation under the command of the "Sea Wolf," Alexander McLean, has been purchased by George W. Beemmaker, and has resumed her original name, Jennie Thelma. Beemmaker has guano concessions on the Mexican coast.

The turbine Cunarder Mauritania, sister-ship of the Lusitania, and the White Star liner Adriatic, were recently launched from British yards. The Adriatic is the largest vessel afloat, with the exception of the Cunarders before named.

The Bureau of Navigation reports that 105 sail and steam vessels, of 35,221 gross tons, were built in the United States during August.

The American ship Bangalore, 135 days out from Honolulu, arrived at Philadelphia, Pa., on September 13, after passing probably the largest iceberg ever reported. The berg, according to Captain Blanchard, was nine miles in length and its crest towered 800 feet above the sea.

Mayor Schultz, of San Francisco, has appointed a committee of one hundred to arrange for the reception of the famous Norwegian navigator and explorer, Captain Roland Amundsen, who recently sailed through the Northwest passage.

Puget Sound pilots have been accused of boarding incoming vessels at Fort Townsend, Wash., or Victoria, B. C., are forming an organization that will hereafter look after the piloting of vessels from a point as far out as Cape Flattery. Captain W. Mann, of Seattle, is the prime mover in the enterprise. The schooner Thomas F. Bayard, for some months past lying idle at Seattle, is under consideration as a purchase for a pilot-boat.

Blank books of all sorts, ledgers, etc., manufactured by the Bulletin Publishing Company.